

NORTHERN ENERGY DIALOGUES

Community Conversation Guide
Fall 2024



Are you interested in helping your community explore its energy future?

This guide will help identify shared priorities, community resources, and desired next steps.

Who?

Anyone in your community who is interested.

What?

Energy is fundamental to how we live and how we connect to the places we call home. Answer a set of questions that will help to shape priorities and implement actions for your community's energy future. Conversations will help shape a regional workshop where communities can connect with others on energy issues.

Where?

At the most convenient location (in person or online) for community members. Funding is available for space rental, supplies, and refreshments to support participation.

When?

At the most convenient time for community members. Questions are estimated to take 1-2 hours to engage with. Community conversations will be happening across northern BC until Spring 2025.

How?

Fill out our Guidebook and/or record your answers as an audio file. Hard copies can be mailed or you can answer the questions online at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/northernenergydialogues>

Northern Energy Dialogues Project

We're working with diverse communities and First Nations across Northern British Columbia to help them identify their interests, needs and opportunities in support of renewable energy initiatives. The current phase of the project is focused on convening community based and regional energy dialogues. Community conversations will be occurring across Northern British Columbia through Fall 2024/Winter 2025.

The goal of the community-level conversations is to collect and amplify the voices of northern, rural, and remote communities and Nations by identifying the energy priorities, barriers, and potential pathways for community energy transformation across the region. Future phases will support targeted and community-identified capacity building initiatives and the development of peer networks.

Working with communities and Nations to support energy initiatives.

Accelerating Community Energy Transformation (ACET)

Northern Regional Energy Dialogues is an Accelerating Community Energy Transformation (ACET) project led in partnership between the University of Victoria and University of Northern British Columbia and with support from the Community Energy Association and Northern British Columbia Climate Action Network (NorthCAN). ACET is a collaborative initiative led by the University of Victoria that brings together over 40 partners, including Indigenous knowledge keepers and community leaders, to create innovative place-based solutions for energy system transformation. ACET will help transform regional economies, inform inclusive policies and integrate breakthrough renewable energy technologies that position Canada as a world leader in clean energy transformation. Learn more about the initiative at www.uvic.ca/ACET.

For any community conversation questions, including assistance with planning or funding, **please contact Sarah Korn, Community Coordinator at: sarah.korn@alumni.unbc.ca.**

<https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/regionalenergydialogues>

Questions

Answer some! Answer all! Answer what is most relevant or interesting to you. Adapt this guide in whatever way you think would be most helpful to your community right now.

1. Who is involved in this discussion?

- *By participating in the community conversation, you are providing your consent to have your comments audio-recorded and/or recorded via written and visual materials. Refer to consent form for more details.*

2. What does energy look like in your community?

Consider:

- *What is discussed when energy is brought up in your community?*
- *What are you most concerned about in your community related to energy? (i.e. affordability, emergencies, transportation, buildings)*

3. What energy assets and infrastructures exist in your community?

Consider:

- *What are your local sources of energy and where do they come from?*

4. Who are the key actors/organizations involved in energy initiatives and projects, and what do they do?

Consider:

- *How are they connected or disconnected? Map this out.*
- *How has your community engaged or participated in energy planning?*

5. What are the key energy-related opportunities in your community?

Consider:

- *What energy initiatives do you think have potential?*
- *What are some of the community benefits that would be associated with these energy initiatives?*

6. What are the vulnerabilities and barriers around energy in your community?

Consider:

- *What barriers exist that are preventing your community from moving forward on energy issues and projects?*

7. What kinds of capacity barriers exist in your community?

Consider:

- *What does capacity mean to you?*

8. What are your highest priorities in relation to energy?

Consider:

- *What does the future of energy look like in your community in 5 or 10 years?*
- *What actions are needed to advance these priorities?*
- *What resources are needed to advance these priorities?*

9. What would you like to learn from or with other northern communities?

Consider:

- *Are there communities in the surrounding region that you are connected with through energy issues or projects, or want to learn more about?*
- *What have you learned from energy projects or planning in your community that you want to share with others?*
- *How do you think your community can work with others in the region on energy development?*

10. What else needs to be noted or discussed from your community's perspective?

Consider:

- *What did we not ask you about?*
- *What questions do you have or what would you like more information about?*